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Though wheat is mankind's most popular cereal food, rye is the first choice in Lithuania. Only about 8 percent of all the arable land is utilized for wheat, while 19 percent of the land is devoted to the growing of rye. Another of the world's largest crops—corn (maize)—is not grown in Lithuania. The same is true of rice. The more popular grain crops, besides rye, are oats, barley, and wheat. Most favored of root crops in Lithuania are the potato and various species of root vegetables. The sugar beet, entirely unknown before the World War, is now quite popular and is grown in sufficient quantities to supply three sugar refineries. Of the fibers, flax is the only one that is widely grown. Hemp is also produced, but in small quantities and only for the consumption of farmers themselves, who use the fiber for ropes and the seeds for several kinds of food.

Another important branch of the agriculture of Lithuania is livestock breeding, which has been vastly improved and extended since the World War.

Economic reconstruction after the World War was not as general among agricultural countries as it might at first appear. Timoshenko points out several unfavorable factors.[5] First of all, the prices of agricultural commodities began to decline early in the period of prosperity. This affected the purchasing power of agricultural and raw-material producing countries. Another adverse factor was the reëstablishment of a system of agricultural protection in the industrial countries of Europe. Cereal production was given less tariff protection during the earlier post-war period than before the war. In some countries of central Europe, including Germany, tariff protection of grain products was completely discontinued during the first post-war years.

[5] Vladimir P. Timoshenko, *World Agriculture and Depression*, Michigan Business Studies, Vol. V, No. 5, University of Michigan, 1933, pp. 541–663.

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474 operative branches, is a small sum. In the unclassified group [456] in the year 1939 there were 430 societies with a membership of 4,581. The total membership of all coöperative societies in 1939 was 161,256.

All the coöperative unions and bigger coöperative societies have representatives in the Council of Coöperatives of Lithuania (Lietuvos Kooperatyvu Taryba), which was formally chartered on January 30, 1925. The task of the Council is to encourage coöperative movement, to maintain close ties among coöperatives in Lithuania and in foreign countries, and to represent them in the government institutions and [204] public organizations. The Council publishes the magazines *Talka* (Coöperation) and *Bendras Darbas* (Coöperative Work).[28]

In short, it may be said that coöperation has played an important role in the economic reconstruction and development of Lithuania since 1918. Coöperative institutions have increased the purchasing power of the farmers, both as producers and as consumers. At the same time they have furthered economic progress both by increasing productivity and by improving the quality of many products.

GRAIN CULTURE

243 Grain culture, which has been known in Lithuania since ancient times, was the backbone of the country's agriculture before the World War of 1914–18. Though there has been a tendency since 1926 to concentrate more on livestock breeding and dairying, grain culture still is the dominating feature of Lithuania's agriculture.

243 In recent years there has been a yearly production of 439 about 1.6 to 1.7 million metric tons of grain, with only a

[28] Salcius, *op. cit.*, pp. 230–31.

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small part of this available for export. Almost half of all the arable land of Lithuania is used for grain culture, a fact that is evident from Table 12. Although the amount of arable land used for grain culture increases slowly, the exports of grain have varied widely. The heavy grain exports in 1935

TABLE 11

EXPORTS OF GRAIN 1924–39[a]

YEAR	GRAIN EXPORTED[b] (*Metric tons*)	VALUE (*1,000 litas*)
1924	24,966	10,022
1926	16,541	9,894
1928	12,310	6,377
1930	40,664	11,526
1932	7,035	2,268
1934	25,504	4,682
1935	162,023	20,465
1936	130,562	14,578
1937	5,795	1,628[c]
1938	132,379	21,696
1939	85,365	11,700

[a] In the statistics of grain exports are included not only rye, wheat, oats, and barley but also the seeds of vetch, peas, buckwheat, chick-peas, and lentils.

[b] The metric ton or 10 quintals = 36.743 U.S. bushels of wheat or potatoes, 39.369 U.S. bushels of rye or linseed, 45.931 U.S. bushels of barley, 65.894 U.S. bushels of oats, according to the League of Nations' *Statistical Year Book of 1940*.

[c] Kriksciunas, *op. cit.*, p. 104, for the period 1924–37.

and 1936, which according to Professor Kriksciunas [27] may be regarded as accidental, were made possible by an exceptionally large yield in 1934 and 1935. The bulk of production is intended for home consumption.

The most popular grain crops in Lithuania are winter

[27] Kriksciunas, *op. cit.*, p. 105.

AGRICULTURE

243 The most popular grain crops in Lithuania are winter
311 rye, winter wheat, oats, and barley; the respective importance of each is indicated by the proportion of the land used for various crops, as shown in Table 12.

TABLE 12

LAND USED FOR VARIOUS CROPS

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CROPS	1909–13 [a] (1,000 acres)	1938 [b] (1,000 acres)	PERCENTAGE OF ALL ARABLE LAND
Rye (winter and spring)	1,365.0	1,304.8	19.2
Wheat (winter and spring)	202.0	500.5	7.4
Oats	783.8	877.4	13.0
Barley	452.7	536.3	8.1
Buckwheat	16.1	19.6	.3
TOTAL GRAIN	2,819.6 [c]	3,238.6 [d]	48.0
Legumes	140.8	192.7	2.8
Potatoes	294.3	459.7	6.8
Sugar beets, fodder beets, carrots, and turnips	(e)	160.0	2.4
Clover and other grass fodder	(e)	1,378.2	20.3
Flax	(e)	192.5	2.8
Vegetables	136.4	63.1	.9

[a] J. Kriksciunas, *Die litauische Landwirtschaft* (Lithuanian Agriculture), Kaunas, 1933, p. 133.
[b] C.S.B., 1938, pp. 114–17.
[c] 1,141,100 hectares.
[d] 1,310,640 hectares.
[e] Figures not available.

243 In general, there is a tendency to reduce rye cultivation. For instance, the total of 1,365,000 acres used for rye in the years 1909–13 is 7.2 percent greater than was used in the same territory in the post-World War period.

In Lithuania rye is used principally for a special dark

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bread and various kinds of gruels. That Lithuania is the greatest rye producer of the three Baltic states, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, is shown by Table 13.

TABLE 13

PRODUCTION OF RYE IN THE BALTIC STATES[a]

(*In Thousands of Quintals*[b])

YEAR	LITHUANIA	LATVIA	ESTONIA
1925–29 (av.)	5,175	2,371	1,508
1930–34 (av.)	5,746	3,148	2,013
1935	6,406	3,639	1,728
1936	5,413	2,860	4,215
1937	6,069	4,215	2,115
1938	6,237	3,802	1,880
1939	6,510	4,291	2,280

[a] League of Nations, *Statistical Year-Book of the League of Nations*, 1937–38; C.S.B., 1938, p. 114.

[b] One quintal equals 220.46 pounds. See footnote b of Table 11 for equivalent in U.S. bushels.

Wheat is also one of the important food products of Lithuania. In the pre-war period of 1909–13, 202,000 acres were used annually for wheat, while in 1935, 535,009 acres were used for this crop, of which 414,041 acres, or 77.2 percent, were used for winter wheat and 301,383 acres, or 22.8 percent, for spring wheat.[28] The growing of wheat in Lithuania is increasing much faster than the growing of any other grain. In 1938 about two and a half times more land was used for wheat than in 1909–13. This increase may be observed particularly regarding spring wheat.

From the data of Table 14 we see that Lithuania produces more wheat than either of the other two Baltic states. Since bread in Lithuania is made principally of rye flour, there is

[28] *Lietuvos Suvažymas*, 1935, p. 18.

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TABLE 14

PRODUCTION OF WHEAT IN THE BALTIC STATES
(*In Thousands of Quintals*)

YEAR	LITHUANIA	LATVIA	ESTONIA
1925–29 (av.)	1,653	626	275
1930–34 (av.)	2,475	1,498	600
1935	2,747	1,775	617
1936	2,197	1,435	662
1937	2,207	1,715	758
1938	2,512	1,918	861
1939	2,565	1,974	855

a considerable surplus of wheat; the greater part of this surplus is exported and the rest is used for the feeding of home fowl and livestock. As the climate of Lithuania is favorable for wheat growing, further expansion in the size of the wheat crop may be expected.

Oats, which are used mostly for livestock fodder, especially for horses, have almost no use in Lithuania as a food for the population. This crop had expanded substantially in the post-World War period. In 1909–13 it was included with fodder mixture, this entire category accounting for 783,801 acres, while in 1938, 877,400 acres were used for oats alone and another 277,246 acres were used for the growing of fodder mixture.

Barley is used in Lithuania chiefly as fodder for pigs. As pig breeding has expanded since the World War, a larger area is being used for barley growing. It is estimated that in the period 1909–13, 452,700 acres were used for that crop; in 1935 the figure increased to 507,963 acres, in 1938 to 536,300 acres, and further expansion was expected under normal conditions.